IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claim 3 and amend claims 1, 2, and 4-6 as follows:

1.   (Currently Amended) A singing voice synthesizing apparatus, comprising:

a singing voice information input device that inputs singing voice information for synthesizing a singing voice;

a phoneme database that stores voice synthesis unit data;

a selector that selects the voice synthesis unit data stored in the phoneme database in accordance with the singing voice information;

a timbre transformation parameter input device that inputs a timbre transformation parameter for transforming timbre; and

a singing voice synthesizer that adjusts a spectrum envelope generated based on the selected voice synthesis unit data and generates a synthetic singing voice of which character is changed by transforming the voice synthesis unit data in accordance with the timbre transformation parameter.

2.   (Currently Amended) A singing voice synthesizing apparatus according to claim 1, further ~~comprising~~ including a characteristic parameter output device that derives a characteristic parameter from the voice synthesis unit data selected by the selector and outputs the derived characteristic parameter, and wherein the singing voice synthesizer corrects the characteristic parameter in accordance with the timbre transformation parameter.

3.   (Canceled)

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4.   (Currently Amended) A singing voice synthesizing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the timbre transformation parameter input device ~~comprises~~ includes a timbre transformation parameter adjuster that changes the timbre transformation parameter in a time axis.

5.   (Currently Amended) A singing voice synthesizing method, comprising ~~the steps of~~:

inputting singing voice information for synthesizing a singing voice;

storing voice synthesis unit data into a phoneme database in advance and selecting the voice synthesis unit data stored in the phoneme database in accordance with the singing voice information;

inputting a timbre transformation parameter for transforming a timbre;

adjusting a spectrum envelope generated based on the selected voice synthesis unit data in accordance with the timbre transformation parameter; and

generating a synthetic singing voice of which character is changed by transforming the voice synthesis unit data in accordance with the timbre transformation parameter.

6.   (Currently Amended) A computer-readable storage medium having encoded thereon a singing voice synthesizing program including instructions which when executed by a computer causes ~~can execute, the program comprising the instructions of~~:

inputting singing voice information for synthesizing a singing voice;

storing voice synthesis unit data into a phoneme database in advance and selecting the voice synthesis unit data stored in the phoneme database in accordance with the singing voice information;

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inputting a timbre transformation parameter for transforming timbre;

adjusting a spectrum envelope generated based on the selected voice synthesis unit data in accordance with the timbre transformation parameter; and

generating a synthetic singing voice of which character is changed by transforming the voice synthesis unit data in accordance with the timbre transformation parameter.

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